

while the American cavalry are pursuing a rear guard band of bandits, whose strategy it is to beguile Villa's pursuers away from his hiding place.

Mexican followers of Villa say it was a favorite trick of the bandit leader, when the chase became hot, to have the story spread that he was dead. Army officers at Fort Bliss declare that if the Villa death story is a hoax, it will not affect the pursuit of the "Fox of the Sierras."

Brigadier-General Pershing has established a new base at Satevo, according to information here, but no word has come from the flying columns of American cavalry under Colonels Dodd and Brown, whose pursuit is said to have extended beyond Parral. There are reports that the advance columns have been forced to halt until the line of communications has been established south of Satevo.

There is nothing official here or at army headquarters at Columbus to confirm a report that Troops K and M, Seventh Cavalry, killed a number of Villa bandits and captured thirty-five others last Saturday south of Satevo. Military officers at Columbus do not credit the report.

Supplies in increasing quantities are being steadily forwarded to the garrisons of Grandes, Nauchupas and other points.

#### THRILLING RIDE BY MYER TO WARN AMERICAN FORCES

PERSHING'S CAMP AT THE FRONT IN MEXICO, April 12.—By aeroplane and motor cruiser to Columbus, N. M., April 11.—The ride of Lieutenant Albert Myer, of the Seventh Cavalry, at the speed of light, when Colonel George A. Dodd caught the Villa forces for the first time, was described here to-day by an officer from Dodd's column who brought dispatches to the head-quarters camp. Lieutenant Myer is from New York, a grandson of the former chief signal officer of the United States Army.

Dodging much of the night, Dodd had a position on one of the hills which form a bowl about the town of Guadalupe. A mile and a half from this hill Dodd said some 500 troops numbering possible 1,000 or 1,200 were steadily through a ravine.

Moving in their direction, but in such a position that they might not see the Villa men, was Major Tompkins' squadron of the Seventh Cavalry.

There seemed a chance for the Villa force to take the squadron on the flanks, and Colonel Dodd ordered Lieutenant Myer to carry word to Major Tompkins of the bandits' movement. Myer rode a horse conspicuously marked with white. Between him and Major Tompkins lay a mile of open field, swept by the fire of snipers.

Lieutenant Myer made the distance at a run, jumping ditches, dodging boulders and leaping fences. The ride thrilled the officers who were watching. The messenger reached the American squadron in time.

#### ENTHUSIASTIC NEW VERSION OF STORY OF VILLA'S DEATH

EL PASO, TEX., April 12.—An entirely new version of the story of Villa's death was brought here to-day by a Mexican cattleman, who claimed to have suffered a visitation from a band of Villa followers on his ranch near Bagdad. This man said that Villa was neither dead nor wounded, but that Pablo Lopez, the bandit notorious lieutenant and executioner, had died and that Villa had deliberately used his death as the basis of the story of his own finish.

The cattleman told the following story:

"I was in Bagdad at the time Villa came there, and afterwards, when the American soldiers arrived, I believed it was safe for me to return to my ranch."

"Last Thursday a band of twenty of Villa's men rode up to the ranch house. They took a little grain that had been sown and killed one of my cows and had a great feast. They had several bottles of liquor that they had secured at Bagdad and Minas, and got pretty drunk before they were through."

"They violated the American soldiers and boasted about the way Villa had treated the 'angloos' by sending guides to the American officers with stories of wanton places in which he was hidden. After they talked about Lopez, and said he was dying, and that as soon as he was dead the 'angloos' would be told it was Villa and then they would all go home."

"They did not say anything different about the whereabouts of the Villa bandits, but I understood from them that he was far to the south, and that they were under orders to meet him somewhere near Parral."

The Mexican who told this story is well known to several Americans here, who considered him reliable.

Villa's ride south has been a disastrous one for the villages and the small towns through which he has passed, according to numerous reports received here. His men have looted at will and have been ruthless in their destruction of property. Several reports relate instances of women being assaulted and of Mexicans who were shot because of their supposed friendliness to Americans, but none of them has been corroborated.

Practically every man in El Paso has a map of Mexico, on which he marks out a new location for the fugitive bandit daily, but the most reliable information is to the effect that he is in Northern Durango, trying to arrange for a concentration for the Villa adherents who have been operating under Captain Meyer.

**MORE BANDIT RAIDS  
IN VICINITY OF GUAYMAS**

SAN DIEGO, CAL., April 12.—Several Americans have been killed or wounded in bandit raids in the vicinity of Guaymas, Sonora, according to a naval radio message received here to-day.

The message was forwarded to the Navy Department at Washington, and resulted in an order to the cruiser Denver, now at San Bias, State of Tepic, to steam for the Sonora seaport.

The message gave no details of the reported raids, and made no mention of the time they were committed.

The Denver was en route from Corinto, Nicaragua, to San Diego.

**SANZAR IS LOCATED  
AT RANCH IN MEXICO**

STEREA BLANCA, TEX., April 12.—General Víctor Salazar, who disappeared from El Paso several days ago, was located to-day at the Morris Ranch in Mexico, ninety miles south of here and forty miles south of the border.

He had with him four companions,

and is said to have threatened to kill one of the American ranch hands. The party left, doing no damage, but took rifles and ammunition from the ranch.

#### DEFENDS ITS SEIZURE OF ENEMY SUBJECTS

(Continued From First Page.)

parts of the enemy have shown and continue to show themselves on neutral soil in many parts of the world in political intrigues, revolutionary plots, schemes for attacking the seaborne trade of this country, and her allies, endeavor to facilitate the operations of ships engaged in this task, and in criminal enterprises of different kinds directed against the property of neutrals and belligerents alike. War has

been extended for beyond the bounds of the area in which opposing armies maneuver, and an unscrupulous belligerent may inflict the deadliest blows on his enemy in regions remote from actual fighting."

#### REFERS IN GENERAL TERMS TO UNNEUTRAL PLOTS

At this point the note refers in general terms to unequal plots in the United States, particularly the Pan American Conference.

"It is then evident of the greatest importance for a belligerent power to intercept on the high seas not only mounted members of the opposing army who may be found traveling on neutral ships, but also those agents whom the enemy sends to injure his opponent abroad, or whose services he enjoys without having himself compensated them."

The action of the United States in forwarding requests for safe conducts for agents of states at war with this country, whose actions had been such that their continued presence in the United States could no longer be tolerated, affords a strong indication that the right to remove certain classes of persons from neutral ships can, in the circumstances of this present war, not be confined to persons embodied in the armed forces of a belligerent."

"It may be added," says the note after reference to the alleged Shanghai plots, "that subsequent information fully confirms that the movement of the body of Germans in question was an integral part of the plot referred to."

The object of their journey was to find another neutral asylum in which they might continue their operations against the interests of this country. The acts which they desired to perform upon the soil of the United States were such as possibly to compromise the neutrality of that country, or to constitute an offense against its criminal laws."

The British note then goes on to argue that the removal of the Confederate commissioners, Mason and Slidell, from the Trent and their subsequent release, for which Great Britain successfully contended, and which was no wise a parallel case, for reasons which the note cites as follows:

"It is hardly necessary for me," wrote Sir Edward Grey, in conclusion, "to state that it is far from the wish and intention of His Majesty's government to take any action involving an invasion of the sovereign rights of the United States government, and I feel confident that after the foregoing explanations in regard both to the general question involved, and to the removal of enemy subjects from the United States, the government will not feel disposed further to contend that this action was not justified."

A paraphrase of the text of the American note also made public by the State Department reveals that Secretary Lansing characterized the removal of the prisoners as "an unauthorized invasion of the sovereignty of American vessels on the high seas."

#### RISING TO NEW LEVELS

Financial Prosperity and Strength Is Greater in United States Than Ever Before.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The controversy between Secretary Daniels and Rear-Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, former head of operations, took a new turn to-day when the Senate adopted without discussion a resolution by Senator Kern calling for correspondence.

Mr. Daniels declined to produce before the House committee during hearings on the naval appropriation bill.

The resolution describes the letters as written to the secretary in November, one by the general board and one by Admiral Fiske. They are deputed to contain warnings of the unpreparedness of the navy for war.

#### TENTATIVE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF RAILROADS

##### First Trainload of Supplies for Amer- ican Troops Leaves Juarez Over Mexican Northwestern

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., April 12.—General Flinston was advised to-day that the first trainload of supplies for the American troops in Mexico left Juarez today over the Mexican Northwestern for Chihuahua under a tentative arrangement with Carranza, belligerent officials, which, if it operates successfully, is expected to alleviate a situation regarded as rapidly becoming acute. Under the arrangement shipments to the expeditionary force will be only as ordinary freight to Chihuahua from which point it will be distributed to the line of communications of the expeditionary force.

It was pointed out that the agreement has yet to acquire the formal confirmation of high officials and authorities express the opinion that much latitude must be allowed in the plan to be sufficient to furnish General Pershing with ample adequate supplies.

While the arrangement would make the task of distributing, facilitating, easier officials here say it would not affect the expeditionary command to draw any considerable force from the line of communication to the advanced line, and the need of sending additional troops into Mexico was deemed imperative.

"The plan has been submitted to representatives of the allied powers," he said, "and I believe they will consent. The plan will be used to carry American goods to South America and Asia."

Reference was made to British and French statements that Mr. Breitling represented Germany in the purchase of the Dacia. In reply he said:

"The Dacia was bought for the shipment of American cotton to Europe."

Whether the final destination was to determine when news came from the Dacia.

"An American syndicate has been formed which can raise \$20,000,000 to

finance British and French as well as Germans are invited to join in the enterprise.

Most of the men behind the

plan are Americans who have made millions in the Great Lakes."

"In the Turkish trenches and before

them more than 3,000 dead enemy were

counted."

"Of the enemy troops, the British

Thirteenth Division, composed exclu-

sively of troops which had fought at

the Dardanelles, figured mostly."

GERMANS GAIN GROUND  
IN CAILLETT WOOD

BERLIN, April 12 (UPI)—German troops in the operations

against Verdun yesterday gained some

ground in Caillebot wood, southeast

of Fort Douamont, according to the

official statement issued to-day by the

German army headquarters.

The German statement says:

"Western theater: A night sortie by

a small German detachment against

an English position near La Boisselle,

northwest of Albert, resulted in twenty-

more German prisoners and one machine gun

being brought in. There was no loss to us."

"To the west of the Meuse, the

French valiantly attacked our lines north-

east of Ayenourt. In other directions

they limited their efforts to a very

lively artillery fire."

"On the eastern bank of the Meuse

three counterattacks on the Poivre

ridge, prepared by a very lively fire,

caused the enemy severe losses with-

out advantage. On two occasions the

storming troops were unable to pen-

etrate the region covered by our

entanglements, as the result of machine-gun fire."

"In Caillebot wood, in spite of the

stubborn defense, we gained some

ground at one or two places."

"In the aerial engagements a French

airplane was shot down near Ornes,

in the Weissey. The pilot was killed.

"Eastern theater: Near Garbinowka,

northwest of Dybinsk, Russian night re-

pitied by several companies.

"Balkan theater: There is nothing

to report."

#### MUST GIVE PRIZES TO ALL

Otherwise Manufacturers of Tobacco,  
Cigars and Cigarettes Face Quitting  
Premium Coupons Altogether.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Manufacturers of snuff, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes face leaving out gift cards and premium coupons altogether, or putting them in shipments, including those to such states as Florida, which have passed laws prohibiting the practice.

A representative of the British com-

said:

"I don't think the allies will favor

Mr. Breitling's plan. Even though the

rentals of the German ships were put

in escrow during the war, they would

be as much an asset to Germany as

localities."

The largest item of the sale was

10,000 bags of coco beans, which

brought nearly half a million dollars,

averaging 13½ cents per pound. Calabash palm oil in sacks of 1,000 pounds each, averaged 15½ cents a pound.

There were 100 sacks and 3,700 sacks of cottonseed, which averaged \$1.56 per sack.

The cottonseed was sold subject to approval by the Department of Agriculture. Collector Hamilton requested that the department be requested to allow this sale with the proviso that the seed be used for manufacturing purposes only.

There was a heavy demand for the

oil and greases, England having for-

bidden the export of these products.

Many buyers were on hand. The sales

are expected to be confirmed within a few days, unless the owners of the

cargo or other interested parties pro-

test on the grounds that sufficient

values were not obtained.

More information will be given later.

W. N. WATKINS, Secretary.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

A stated communication of Metro-